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new *EXCALIBUR*

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Previously in NEW EXCALIBUR:

In the aftermath of M-DAY, five disparate heroes are brought together in London: CAPTAIN BRITAIN, JUGGERNAUT, NOCTURNE, DAZZLER and SAGE. Together with government agent PETE WISDOM (an agent of MI-13, the division of Her Majesty's Intelligence Service devoted to the supernatural), they stand as a symbol of might in the service of right.

Recently, the team took down a highly powerful group of bank robbers. During the melee, Dazzler was shot and apparently killed! But, like the last two times she has "died," Dazzler came back to life almost immediately afterwards. The team took Dazzler to the closest hospital and after some tests, it was revealed that absolutely nothing was wrong with her.

While at the hospital, though, Nocturne suddenly suffered a major stroke. She is now in recovery.

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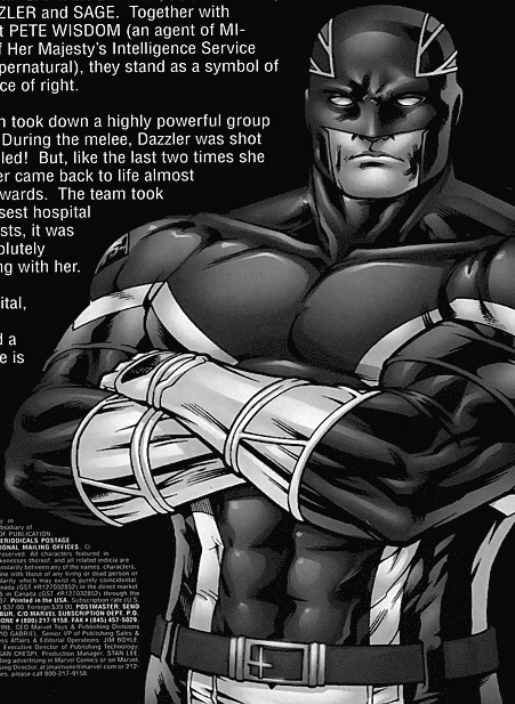
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LONDON.

THE ROYAL
VICTORIA
HOSPITAL--

--INTENSIVE
CARE WING.

FOR EXCALIBUR,
THE LONG WAIT
IS OVER.

I WON'T
MINCE
WORDS,
GIRL--

--YOU
HAD US
SCARED!

THEIR
TEAMMATE,
NOCTURNE,
IS AWAKE.

AND AS FAR AS
THEY'RE CONCERNED,
SHE'S GOING TO BE
JUST FINE.

HOW
DOES SHE
FEELING,
GIRL?

YOU
DO
GREAT!

DOES SHE
US
PRETTY
WORRIED!

IS THERE
ANYTHING
WE CAN
DO?

I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
ALL YOUR
WORDS!

THEY'RE
JUST NOISE
TO ME.
THEY DON'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE.

DON'T
TALK SO
FAST, PLEASE.
DON'T TALK
SO FAST.

ALL RIGHT, YOU
LOT, VISIT'S
OVER.

WHAT TALIA NEEDS
MORE THAN ANYTHING
RIGHT NOW IS SOME
DECENT REST.

WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO ME?

FALLEN FRIEND

PART 2

BY CHRIS CLAREMONT
& SCOT EATON

THE
NEXT
DAY...

ALL RIGHT, TALIA, WE'LL
START WITH
SOMETHING
SIMPLE.

YOUR
LEFT SIDE'S
WORKING
FINE.

NOW
I'D LIKE
YOU TO
LIFT YOUR
RIGHT
LEG.

NOT...
HAPPENING!

WHEN DID
IT GET SO...
HEAVY?!

AUGHK!

SANDU FLOREA, JAY LEISTEN,
DAVE MEIKIS AND JOHN DELL: INKERS
GODOLPH'S A. CROSSLEY: COLORIST
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DAN BUCKLEY: PUBLISHER











BRIAN--
HOW'S
TALIA?

THE
DOCTORS
ARE STILL
EVALUATING
HER.

IT'S
STRANGE,
THINKING OF
HER LIKE
THIS.

WE'RE SO
USED TO YOU
PEOPLE BEING SO
MUCH... BETTER
THAN US.

BEING
KILLED IN
BATTLE, WITH
SUPER-VILLAINS
AND THE LIKE--
THAT'S ONE
THING.



BUT SOME-
THING LIKE
A STROKE--
IT'S SO...

HUMAN?

YES.



I SUPPOSE
THAT'S THE
SITUATION IN
A NUTSHELL,
THEN.



WHAT MATTERS MORE,
THE DIFFERENCES THAT WE
LET DIVIDE US, OR THE
THINGS THAT BIND US
TOGETHER?

COURTNEY--
IS EVERYTHING
ALL RIGHT?

JUST SOME
BUSINESS I
HAVE TO
COMPLETE.

I'LL
SWING BY
THE HOSPITAL
WHEN I'M
DONE
HERE.



YOU
UNDERSTAND,
MR. ROSS, WITH
YOUR SIGNATURE,
YOU SEVER ALL
CONNECTIONS
WITH FRASER'S
BANK.



ENJOY YOUR
VICTORY,
GENTLEMEN.

A DAY LATER...

THIS IS GOOD NEWS, TALIA. THE SWELLING'S GOING DOWN.

YOUR BODY'S TAKEN A HARD HIT, IT'S BEEN WORKING OVERTIME TO DEAL WITH IT.

YOU HAVEN'T EATEN DECENTLY FOR DAYS, THE FUEL HAS TO COME FROM SOMEWHERE.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

NOCTURNE.

C'MON, GIRL, SHOW US WHAT'CHA GOT, LIFT, LIFT, LIFT!

I'M-- TRYING! BUT IT'S REALLY HARD!

TALIA JOSEPHINE WAGNER, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

AREN'T YOU LISTENING? I TOLD YOU-- NOCTURNE!

TALIA JOSEPHINE WAGNER, WAS IST IHR NAME?

TALIA JOSEPHINE WAGNER--SIND SIE BEFRIEDIGT?

YOUR HAND'S LOOKING MUCH BETTER, SWELLING'S DOWN.

HOW IS IT TO USE?

MODERATELY AWFUL.

I CAN BARELY HOLD A PEN AND MY WRITING--I COULDN'T REMEMBER MY OWN NAME!

I COULDN'T REMEMBER MY NAME!



YET
ANOTHER
DAY...

COME
ON, POPPET.
GIVE MY
HAND A
SQUEEZE.

HARD
AS YOU CAN,
LOVE.

NOT TOO
SHABBY.

NOW
FOR THE
OTHER
ONE,
YEH?

...
ALL RIGHT,
PETAL, THAT'S
ENOUGH.

HOW
D'YA FEEL,
THEN?

ANGRY.
SICK.

I WANT
TO HIT
SOME-
THING.

WELL,
THAT'S A
START.









THE FOLLOWING DAY...

WHY SO GRUMPY?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

SORRY, ALI, IT'S JUST-- I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THIS MYSELF.

TWO WEEKS AGO, I COULD.



WASH YOUR ARMS YOURSELF, I'LL DO YOUR LEGS.

AND TALIA-- YOU'VE GOTTA GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO HEAL.



I KNOW, BUT MY WHOLE LIFE BEFORE THIS, I FELT LIKE MY BODY HAD NO LIMITS.



NOW...

...I'M BROKEN.



GIVING UP, THEN?

YOU AND SAGE-- GIMME A BREAK!

BUT ALI, I DON'T THINK I CAN BE A SUPER HERO ANYMORE.



POOR BABY.

FIRST THING, YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.



AND TWO, EVEN IF IT'S TRUE, SO WHAT?

FIND ANOTHER PATH, LEARN SOMETHING NEW, ADAPT, EVOLVE. BUT DON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP!

YES, MA'AM.



HEY, TALIA,
HOW YA
DOIN'?! I BROUGHT
FOOD!



UH, THANKS,
BUT I'M
REALLY
SORRY, I'M
NOT
HUNGRY.

WHAT'S
HIS
NAME?
I KNOW
HIM, HE'S
MY FRIEND!
WHY CAN'T I
REMEMBER HIS
NAME?!



HEY,
YOU NEED
YOUR
STRENGTH,
HOW ELSE
YOU GONNA
GET
BETTER?

IT'S THE
NEAR-DEAD
DIET,
DON'T CHA
KNOW?
SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED
OR YOU GET
TO COMPLAIN
TO GOD.



WHY'RE YOU MAKIN'
FUN? I THOUGHT WE
WERE FRIENDS.

WE
ARE!

YOU SURE
ARE SHOWIN'
IT FUNNY.



I CAN'T
REMEMBER
YOUR
NAME!

AND IT'S
NOT JUST YOU!
I CAN SEE MEMORY
PICTURES OF MY MOM
AND MY DAD INSIDE
MY HEAD, I KNOW
IT'S THEM--

--BUT I
CAN'T
REMEMBER
THEIR
NAMES!





YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
BEAUTIFUL,
SAGE...

WHY DO
YOU HIDE
IT?

WHY
DO YOU KEEP
YOUR TRUE SELF
HIDDEN?

GOTTA SAY
THOUGH, YOU'RE
A WHOLE LOT
TOUGHER THAN
ANYONE I'VE EVER
POSSESSED.

I MAY RUN
YOUR BODY, BUT
I CAN'T TOUCH YOUR
MEMORIES. YOUR LIFE
IS STILL TOTALLY
PRIVATE.

WHICH I'M
KIND'A GLAD
ABOUT.

I'M NOT
SURE I EVER
WANT TO
LEARN YOUR
SECRETS.

I OWE
YOU, SAGE.
SO I PRAY YOU
WON'T KILL
ME...







SO THIS WAS ALL A GAME?

ABSOLUTELY.

BORING NIGHT, SAGE AND I HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO, THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE FUN.



THAT'S NOT FUNNY!

I'M NOT LAUGHING.



TALIA, I'VE LOST MY WIFE, AND I'VE LOST MY TWIN SISTER...

...AND MUCH AS I WISH-- MUCH AS I HOPE-- THINGS WERE DIFFERENT...



...I KNOW IT'S PROBABLY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME 'TIL I LOSE SOMEONE ELSE.



THAT, SADLY, IS THE NATURE OF THE PEOPLE WE ARE, AND THE LIVES WE CHOOSE TO LIVE.

BUT I WON'T LOSE THEM WITHOUT A FIGHT.



SAGE COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.

IT WAS A RISK SHE WAS PREPARED TO TAKE.



WHY???

SHE'S EXCALIBUR, YOU'RE EXCALIBUR.

WE'RE EXCALIBUR.





TEAM DCP

KURT WAGNER & KRYPTONIA

